



AIR FORCE JUNIOR ROTC

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March 2, 2012

State Senator Michael McLachlan
Legislative Office Building
Room 3400
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator McLachlan,

Thank you for the opportunity to make an input on the upcoming change to education legislation. I am unable to attend the hearing on Monday, March 5th, due to Connecticut Academic Performance Testing at Danbury High School that day, but my inputs follow.

LEGISLATION AS PROPOSED:

AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 10-230a of the 2012 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 166 relating to professional certification, [a local or regional board of education may employ] the State Board of Education shall issue, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-145i, a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps permit to any person certified by the United States armed forces to be an instructor or assistant instructor of a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program. Any person holding such Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps permit may be employed by a local or regional board of education to serve as an instructor or assistant instructor of a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program in a school and to teach courses under such program in accordance with requirements established for such program by the United States Department of Defense.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES:

1. Replace the word "permit" with "certificate." JUSTIFICATION: Teachers must hold a certificate to teach, not a permit, and all teaching regulations refer to teachers as "certified." Not being certified has been the main issue for JROTC instructors.
2. Replace "Board" in State Board of Education with "Department." JUSTIFICATION: The State Department of Education is the issuing authority for teacher certificates.
3. Add the following at the end of this section: "Additionally, the State Department of Education will count all previous JROTC instructor teaching time as full-time certified teaching time." JUSTIFICATION: Some JROTC instructors were not certified in the past, and the State Department of Education has not counted this teaching time at all, as if JROTC instructors were not professional teachers. The new JROTC teaching certificates (endorsement codes 210 and 310) are issued with only proof that the service (e.g., Air Force) has certified the instructor, which has always been a requirement to be a JROTC instructor. Therefore, JROTC instructors have met the current certification requirements all along, so they should be considered to have been certified teachers all along.

Sincerely,
BRYAN D. HOLMES, Lt Col, USAF (Retired)
Senior Aerospace Science Instructor